

CARPE DIEM PHINISI

Banda Sea Hammerhead Season

Ambon to Ambon | Laha, Banda Islands and Nusa Laut

Hammerhead sharks frequently pass through the deep pinnacles of the Banda Sea, where pelagic fish and coral reefs fill the blue.

Pristine coral gardens slope away into a wall of corals and sea fans, with sea turtles, colourful fish and another chance of passing hammerheads.

Sea snakes, schools of barracuda, trevally and snappers, pygmy seahorses and nudibranchs all gather among the rocks in strong currents.

The muck dives of Ambon Bay, known as the Twilight Zone, turn up rhinopias, frogfish, ghost pipefish and octopus.

Gunung Api finishes the story with a lava flow reef covered in table and bottle-brush corals.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Ambon	Ambon	Advanced Open Water or better







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Ambon (Laha)

2 dives

The crew meets you at the airport or your hotel and welcomes you on board with drinks.
After the safety and boat briefings you settle into your cabin.
Two muck dives around Laha in Ambon Bay, known as the Twilight Zone, with rhinopias, frogfish, ghost pipefish, octopus species, crustaceans and nudibranchs.
Then an overnight transit to Pulau Suanggi.

DAY 2

Pulau Suanggi and Banda Neira

3 dives

Two morning dives at Pulau Suanggi, with deep pinnacles, pelagic fish and coral reefs, where hammerhead sharks frequently pass through.
Then a shore visit to Fort Belgica, the museum and a nutmeg plantation in Banda Neira, and one more dive for the mandarin fish.
Overnight to Pulau Manuk.

DAY 3

Pulau Manuk

3 dives

Sea snakes, schools of barracuda, trevally and snappers, and pygmy seahorses and nudibranchs among the rocks.
Strong currents make this a site for experienced divers.



DAY 4

Pulau Run

3 dives

Pristine coral gardens, a sloping reef that becomes a wall of corals and sea fans, sea turtles and colourful fish, with a chance to spot passing hammerheads.

DAY 5

Banda Besar and Gunung Api

3 dives

Depending on conditions, sites such as Pohon Miring, Pantai Lanutu, Tanjung Cengkeh, Batu Indah and Tanjung Nama on Banda Besar, and the lava flow of Gunung Api with its table and bottle-brush corals.

DAY 6

Suanggi or Hatta

3 dives

Depending on the hammerhead sightings on day 2, a return to Pulau Suanggi or a dive at Hatta, with a slope of brown soft corals, a wall with huge sponges, and eagle rays, snappers and blacktip sharks in the deeper water.



DAY 7

Nusa Laut

2 dives

Vibrant coral reefs protected by the locals, with angelfish, butterflyfish and parrotfish, and a chance of groupers and reef sharks.
After the final dives Carpe Diem Phinisi heads back to Ambon.

DAY 8

Ambon

After breakfast, and some obligatory photos, the crew arranges transfers to the airport or your hotel.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Banda Neira

Fort Belgica, the museum and a nutmeg plantation.

Gunung Api

A volcano with a lava flow reef.

Laha

Muck diving in Ambon Bay.

Pulau Run

Historic island and coral gardens.

Check in

Guests are met at the airport or where they are staying. The ideal check in time is 9 am, the earliest is 7.30 am and the latest is 10 am. The check dive is normally on the day of boarding.

Check out

Check out is between 7 am and 11 am, depending on your destination and flight times, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

Diving finishes at about 11 am on the day before check out, with two morning dives. Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying, so please keep to the no-flying rule when you book your flight home.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Airport, ferry terminal or hotel transfers at embarkation and disembarkation
- Air-conditioned en-suite cabin with hot shower, towels and toiletries
- Full board, with snacks, drinking water, soft drinks, tea and coffee
- PADI divemaster dive guides and all diving equipment
- Sea kayaks and stand-up paddle boards
- A multi-lingual cruise director
- Welcome drinks on arrival

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, ferries and hotels before and after the cruise
- National park fees, paid on board
- Wine, spirits and beer
- Scuba courses
- Satellite phone use and crew tips
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

This is a proposed itinerary for planning only, subject to the weather and the conditions on board and at each site

Good to know

The daily programme is discussed with guests each evening for the following day

Good to know

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying

Insurance

Please arrange dive and travel insurance before you travel